

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 OES-06 CG-00 AID-05 CEQ-01

CIAE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00 EPA-01 INR-07

IO-13 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06

SS-15 SP-02 FEAE-00 INT-05 DOTE-00 FMC-01 DLOS-09

/104 W

-----061422Z 084279 /43

P 061335Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1386

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 2446

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, SENV, IMCO, PN

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION/INITIATIVE ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION

REF: A) STATE 66771; B) STATE 060283; C) PANAMA A-050

1. EMBOFF HAS HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DIRECTOR OF CONSULAR AND SHIPPING AFFAIRS, MS. CAMILA VIVES, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR LICENSING AND INSPECTION STANDARDS OF PANAMANIAN FLAG VESSELS AND OTHER SHIPPING MATTERS.

2. MS. VIVES' REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'T PROPOSALS WAS THAT PANAMA WOULD NOT BE LEFT BEHIND, THAT PANAMA WOULD CERTAINLY DO WHAT WAS NECESSARY TO ALLOW PANAMANIAN FLAG VESSELS TO CONTINUE TO ENTER UNITED STATES PORTS. PANAMA HAS RATIFIED THE 1963 IMCO TECHNICAL INSPECTION AGREE-
MENT (SOLAS) AND WILL SOON RATIFY THE 1974 IMLO/SOLAS AGREE-
MENT, SHE SAID, CERTAINLY IN 1977.

3.. MS. VIVES PROUDLY DESCRIBED RECENT EFFORTS OF THE GOP TOWARD ESTABLISHING SYSTEMATIC INSPECTION OF PANAMANIAN FLAG VESSELS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW NUMBER 39 OF JULY 8, 1976

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PUBLISHED IN THE GACETA OFICIAL JULY 12, PANAMANIAN FLAG VESSELS ENGAGED IN FOREIGN COMMERCE WILL BE SUBJECT TO ANNUAL INSPECTIONS AND EXTRAORDINARY IN-
SPECTIONS TO ENSURE THEIR COMPLIANCE WITH PANAMANIAN AND INTERNATIONAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. WHEREAS THIS LAW BECAME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1977, IT WILL NOT BE ENFORCED UNTIL JUNE 1, 1977, EXPLAINED

MS. VIVES, SO AS TO GIVE THE SHIP OWNERS MORE TIME TO PREPARE FOR COMPLIANCE AND TO ENSURE SUCCESS OF THE OPERATION ONCE BEGUN. CIRCULARS EXPLAINING THE NEW INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS WERE DISTRIBUTED IN EARLY DECEMBER TO OIL COMPANIES AND SHIPPING LINES, AND IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS AND INSPECTION PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN DRAFTED AND ARE NOW RECEIVING FINAL EDITING. ACTUAL INSPECTION OF SHIPS WILL BE PERFORMED IN SEVERAL FAR-FLUNG REGIONAL CENTERS, BY PRIVATE FIRMS UNDER CONTRACT: IN NEW YORK BY THE "NATIONAL CARGO BUREAU," IN ASIA BY THE "NIPPON KKK," AND BY INDIVIDUAL SURVEYORS IN EUROPE.

4. INSPECTION FORMS HAVE BEEN PREPARED AND SAMPLE FORMS ARE BEING SUBMITTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER (REF C), TOGETHER WITH A COPY OF LAW 39 OF JULY 8, 1976. FORMS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO OIL COMPANIES AND SHIPPING FIRMS APRIL 15 AND GO INTO USE JUNE 1, 1977.

5. MS VIVES DESCRIBED THESE STEPS AS PART OF A MAJOR EFFORT ON THE PART OF PANAMA TO GET ITS SHIPPING HOUSE IN ORDER AND IMPROVE ITS IMAGE AS A MARITIME NATION. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN AN INCREASE IN MINIMUM REGISTRATION FEE TO \$1,800 (FORMERLY \$100). AS A RESULT 900 SHIPS, MOSTLY SMALL ONES, HAVE CANCELED THEIR PANAMANIAN REGISTRY SINCE JANUARY. THESE WERE MOSTLY SHIPS THAT PANAMA "DIDN'T WANT ANYWAY."

6. MS. VIVES PLANS A TWO-WEEK VISIT BEGINNING LAST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WEEK OF APRIL TO NEW YORK WHERE ELDON MAXWELL ASSOCIATES CORPORATION WILL SERVE AS TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS TO PANAMA'S NEW INSPECTION OFFICES. THE INSPECTION OFFICES ARE BEING SET UP THROUGH THE PANAMANIAN CONSULATE GENERAL AND WILL BE FINANCED THROUGH INSPECTION FEES. KNOWLEDG-ABLE PANAMANIAN OFFICIAL IN NEW YORK IS CONSUL STAGG.

7. MS. VIVES AND POSSIBLY MR. ELDON AND MR. STAGG WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET WITH INTERESTED US OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON OR NEW YORK DURING HER TRIP. PLEASE ADVISE IF INTERESTED SO THAT WE MAY INFORM MS. VIVES, ALTHOUGH WE PRESUME ACTUAL SCHEDULING OF ANY APPOINTMENTS WOULD BE THROUGH PANAMANIAN EMBASSY OR CONSULATE GENERAL. JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WATER POLLUTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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